

2008-09 Annual Report

15430 Kercheval
Grosse Pointe Park,
Michigan 48230

(313) 432-4700

John D. Pierce Middle School
Grosse Pointe Public School System

Mr. Gary Buslepp, Principal

Introduction

John D. Pierce Middle School continues to provide a tradition of excellence for our 609 students, their families and community. Named after Michigan's first state superintendent of public instruction, Pierce is flourishing as demonstrated by the accomplishments of students, teachers, and parent volunteers. Highlighted below are examples of "Pierce Pride" achieved during the 2008-09 school year.

- Pierce students continue to be honored each quarter for academic achievement and citizenship.
- Thirty percent of Pierce's 7th and 8th grade students are distinguished members of the John D. Pierce National Junior Honor Society. Our NJHS chapter heralds our commitment to recognizing and celebrating student excellence. NJHS members provide district elementary and Pierce Middle School students with additional time and support through peer tutoring. Service projects were abundant and supported area schools and community agencies. Members read to district elementary students to commemorate a *National Day of Reading*. The NJHS also led our school wide initiative of respect for the environment. As a result, Pierce's statewide honor and recognition as a *Green School* was well deserved.
- The novel A² (Academics and Activities) period continues to allow students to receive additional time and support to strengthen their academics and developing organizational skills. Student activities provide eligible students with an opportunity to explore interests and promote social well-being.
- Writing awards were earned by many students. Six students were recognized with regional Gold Key awards presented by the *Alliance for Young Artists & Writers* for personal essays. One of these students was honored nationally at Carnegie Hall in New York City as a Silver Key medalist. The writing and artwork of three students were recognized by the nationally published *Cricket Magazine*.
- The Pierce yearbook and newspaper, *The Trojan Times*, and literary publication, *Inklings*, continue their tradition of being quality student publications.
- Many students distinguished themselves and were recognized in school wide spelling, geography and mythology bee competitions that eventually crowned a school champion.
- The annual *American Math Competition* recognized eight Pierce students at various levels of competency. Two of these earned the AMC Honor Roll Award.
- Three gold, two silver, one bronze and two Honorable Mentions were awarded to Pierce students in the *Michigan Social Studies Olympiad*.
- Three teams of Pierce students earned regional honors at the *Destination Imagination* competition. Two teams advanced to earn state acclaim. One team received the highest rating and award for middle schools at the national competition hosted by University of Tennessee.
- Two students were honored with art awards in sculpture from the Southeastern Michigan Region of Scholastic Art Competition. A third student received a Silver Key award in printmaking.
- Student participants in robotics qualified to compete in the *Michigan Climate Connections Tournament*.
- Several students received all-state honors by the Middle School Orchestra Association. Instrumental and vocal music students received superior ratings at the *Heritage Music Festival* in Chicago. The all-school musical *Seussical, Jr.* was well received by the Pierce community.
- *After-School Study* and *Guided Study* programs provide homework assistance every weekday.
- Five long standing school records were broken in track and field by a number of student-athletes.
- The Pierce PTO, student and parent volunteers donated services (ex: *Kids Against Hunger*) and financial aid in support of academic, community service activities and building beautification projects.

Mission Statement

The mission of Pierce Middle School in partnership with students, parents and community, is to ensure that all students can achieve mastery of basic skills, attain their maximum potential through a nurturing environment, develop a strong sense of personal responsibility and positive social and emotional attitudes, and become contributing citizens skilled in using the tools of learning for the 21st century.

**Pierce Middle School
opened
in September, 1939**

Core Curriculum

The Grosse Pointe Public School System's core curriculum is developed under the auspices of the Educational Programs Leadership Council (EPLC), a group of teachers, parents, students, and administrators who meet monthly.

The core curriculum is based upon state standards in all subjects and extends beyond those standards by incorporating exemplary national standards. Curriculum committees, comprised of teachers, parents, students and administrators develop plans for each curricular area. In addition, the views of the broader community are sought through Public Forums. The reports of the curriculum committees, which are submitted first to the EPLC and then to the Board of Education, include recommendations regarding assessment, staff development, integration of technology, and differentiated instruction to accommodate academic diversity as well as the curriculum itself. The district also offers a wide array of advanced placement and challenging enrichment courses and a comprehensive special education program.

During 2008-09 the district implemented a new mathematics program to support the prior year's curriculum implementation. *Everyday Math* was selected for grades 1-5 and Harcourt for Kindergarten. A new social studies curriculum was implemented for grades K-2 and 5 (grades 3 and 4 are still under study due to late changes in the state curriculum) and materials to support instruction were purchased. New science and music curricula were adopted with transition plans, and materials purchased to support them.

During 2009-10 the English/language arts curriculum will be the core curriculum under review. Computer Education K-12 is also under review to ensue that the district's investment and grant support in technology are well used.

The district's strong curriculum is demonstrated by the continuing high performance of our students on standardized assessments including NWEA, MEAP, ACT, SAT, and Advanced Placement tests.

School Improvement Plan

To improve school climate through the implementation of a school-wide Positive Behavior Support Program (PBS):

- All students and parents were supplied with a PBS behavior matrix that defines behavioral expectations for all school settings.
- Faculty and staff have adopted a multi-disciplinary team approach in identifying and assisting students with significant problem behaviors.
- PBS aims to decrease the rate of student recidivism of infractions involving disrespectful, unsafe or irresponsible behavior.
- PBS targets an increase in the number of observable positive student behaviors as supported by the number of eligible students for weekly drawings, commendations and PBS celebrations.

Effective use of school-wide teacher strategies resulting in writing gains on the Grosse Pointe Writing Assessment (GPWA):

- The implementation of observable and measurable writing strategies in all core and elective areas will strengthen and support writing instruction and student writing gains on the GPWA.
- All students will apply a variety of pre-writing strategies that include organizational patterns to support ideas in order to improve their writing.
- Pre-writing strategies will be implemented to compliment narrative and informational styles of writing.

All students will improve their ability to add, subtract and multiply algebraic expression of the first degree and justify using properties of real numbers:

- Math teachers will research grade level appropriate instructional strategies for using properties of real numbers to justify simplifying math expressions.
- Math teachers will continue to review the data from common assessments focusing on the application of the distributive property and combining of like terms.
- An increase in the current rate of proficiency surrounding this grade level content expectation is projected on state assessment in 2010.

Student Average Attendance Rate: 95.4%

Percentage of Parents Participating in Parent-Teacher Conferences:

2008-2009
90% (547 Students)

2007-2008
89% (538 Students)

Education YES! Report Card

AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) Status Met: Yes

Michigan Report Card Grade: A

North Central Association Accreditation

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT—PIERCE MICHIGAN EDUCATION ASSESSMENT PROGRAM (MEAP)

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 6											
MEAP READING				MEAP WRITING				MEAP ELA TOTAL			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	93%	93%	92%	08-09	87%	94%	80%	08-09	90%	93%	88%
07-08	96%	96%	96%	07-08	93%	96%	91%	07-08	96%	96%	97%
06-07	94%	96%	92%	06-07	80%	83%	78%	06-07	90%	92%	87%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 7											
MEAP READING				MEAP WRITING				MEAP ELA TOTAL			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	92%	91%	93%	08-09	90%	92%	88%	08-09	92%	92%	92%
07-08	90%	89%	90%	07-08	90%	96%	83%	07-08	91%	90%	91%
06-07	92%	93%	92%	06-07	82%	89%	75%	06-07	91%	92%	91%

MEAP ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS TEST Grade 8											
MEAP READING – Grade 8				MEAP WRITING – Grade 8				MEAP ELA TOTAL – Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	92%	97%	87%	08-09	89%	95%	84%	08-09	92%	97%	87%
07-08	92%	93%	91%	07-08	88%	91%	84%	07-08	92%	93%	91%
06-07	91%	95%	85%	06-07	88%	97%	78%	06-07	91%	97%	84%

MEAP MATHEMATICS TEST											
Grade 6				Grade 7				Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY				Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male	Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	87%	92%	83%	08-09	94%	95%	93%	08-09	83%	82%	84%
07-08	90%	90%	90%	07-08	82%	80%	85%	07-08	86%	82%	91%
06-07	78%	75%	81%	06-07	84%	83%	84%	06-07	86%	89%	81%

MEAP SCIENCE – Grade 8			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	92%	94%	91%
07-08	88%	87%	89%
06-07	88%	91%	84%

MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES Grade 6			
Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY			
Year	All	Female	Male
08-09	88%	90%	87%
07-08	94%	95%	93%
06-07	88%	86%	89%

NOTE: Grade 8 Social Studies test was moved to grade 9 and reported by the high schools.

- MEAP Data is not reported by Racial/Ethnic minority group (except 8th grade Black), Special Education, or Economically Disadvantaged because no group is significantly large enough to report MEAP results without revealing the identity of individual students.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT-PIERCE

2008-09 MEAP Percentage of Students Tested								
Grade	MEAP READING	MEAP WRITING	MEAP ELA	MEAP MATH	MEAP SCIENCE	MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES	Total ELA with MI-ACCESS	Total Math with MI-ACCESS
6	99%	99%	99%	99%	Not Tested	98%	100%	100%
7	99%	100%	99%	100%	Not Tested	Not Tested	99%	100%
8	97%	96%	96%	98%	97%	Not Tested	98%	99%

NOTE: Total with MI-ACCESS refers to the percentage tested with the MEAP or MI-ACCESS (an alternative state test) in each area.

MEAP Percentage Achieving SATISFACTORY – (2008-2009) of State Mandated Groups							
Grade	Group	MEAP READING	MEAP WRITING	MEAP ELA	MEAP MATH	MEAP SCIENCE	MEAP SOCIAL STUDIES
8	Black, Not of Hispanic Origin	87%	83%	90%	59%	87%	Not Tested

GROSSE POINTE WRITING ASSESSMENT

Grosse Pointe WRITING Percentage of Students Achieving SATISFACTORY (Scores of 4-7)									
Year	Grade 6			Grade 7			Grade 8		
	All	F	M	All	F	M	All	F	M
08-09	60.9%	68.9%	53.9%	58.7%	69.7%	46.2%	71.7%	75.0%	68.2%
07-08	64.7%	70.9%	57.9%	50.0%	50.5%	49.4%	64.6%	71.3%	56.7%
06-07	58.2%	66.0%	50.0%	67.9%	73.3%	61.4%	67.5%	73.1%	61.5%

NORTHWEST EVALUATION ASSOCIATION (NWEA)

Average Percentile Achieved by Pierce Students (on National Norms)

Grade	Year	Percentile READING Spring			Percentile MATH Spring		
		All	Female	Male	All	Female	Male
6	08-09	65	72	59	57	58	56
	07-08	65	68	61	60	58	63
7	08-09	67	67	65	60	56	63
	07-08	56	56	56	52	49	55
8	08-09	58	63	54	61	62	61
	07-08	63	62	63	59	57	61

NOTES: A percentile is the percentage of students in a national norms group who scored at or below a particular score.